

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, APRIL 21, 2023

CCB - CLERK'S OFFICE  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

PETITION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

2023 APR 21 A 10:51  
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00051

For approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND HEARING

On March 31, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed a petition with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects ("Petition") pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia ("Code").<sup>1</sup> Specifically, Dominion seeks approval of Phase III of its plan to transform its electric distribution grid ("GT Plan"), which consists of proposed projects in 2024, 2025, and 2026, as well as work performed in prior years for certain Phase III projects.<sup>2</sup>

Dominion states that Phase III of the GT Plan includes the continuation of the following previously approved projects: (i) completion of the Company's deployment of two foundational GT Plan investments – advanced metering infrastructure ("AMI") and the customer information platform ("CIP");<sup>3</sup> (ii) continuation of the following three grid infrastructure projects –

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to statute, the Commission's Final Order in this matter must be entered not more than six months from the date the Petition is filed. *See* Code § 56-585.1 A 6.

<sup>2</sup> Petition at 1, n.1.

<sup>3</sup> *See* Direct Testimony of Company witness Robert S. Wright, Jr. at 13. The Company expects to complete its broad deployment of AMI in 2024. As to the CIP, while the Company expects to complete the core project of replacing aging systems in 2023 as part of Phase II, it proposes to complete the final component of the CIP – a redesign of the customer bill – in Phase III. *Id.*

mainfeeder hardening, targeted corridor improvement, and voltage island mitigation;<sup>4</sup> (iii) continuation of the following three grid technologies projects – a distributed energy resource management system, voltage optimization enablement, and substation technology deployment;<sup>5</sup> (iv) continued investments in telecommunications and physical security;<sup>6</sup> and (v) continued investments in cyber security and customer education to the extent needed to support other proposed projects.<sup>7</sup>

Dominion also requests approval of two new projects.<sup>8</sup> First, the Company proposes to deploy a new outage management system ("OMS") to replace an operating system developed over 30 years ago.<sup>9</sup> According to the Company, the new OMS would leverage field condition information coming from intelligent grid devices, automated restoration schemes, smart meters, and system models to provide more accurate and timely outage event analysis, more effectively manage outage restoration activities, and better communicate outage restoration information to customers and emergency responders at the state and local levels.<sup>10</sup>

Second, Dominion seeks approval of a process to evaluate energy storage systems as non-wires alternatives ("NWA").<sup>11</sup> More specifically, the Company is seeking approval of a

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 14. Dominion states that Phase III targeted corridor improvement adds two pilot programs to enhance reliability based in part on lessons learned from prior phases. *Id.* at 15. The Company does not consider these requested pilot programs to be new projects. *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 14.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Petition at 5-6.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

program structure and process so that NWA solutions identified would be deemed reasonable and prudent without additional regulatory approval.<sup>12</sup> Dominion asserts that approval of this process would enable it to gain experience with this integrated distribution planning concept in a manner that would provide useful information as the Company moves forward with NWAs and that may result in the integration of energy storage systems that can dynamically respond to changing grid conditions.<sup>13</sup> The Company also requests approval of costs for software needed to support the process.<sup>14</sup>

The Company represents that, in preparing the GT Plan, it evaluated each proposed project to determine whether there were any environmental justice concerns.<sup>15</sup>

The total proposed cost associated with Phase III of the GT Plan is \$1.0987 billion in capital investment and \$70.6 million in operations and maintenance expenses.<sup>16</sup>

Pursuant to Rule 20 VAC 5-204-10 E of the Commission's Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Electric Utilities ("Rate Case Rules"),<sup>17</sup> Dominion also requests limited waivers of the requirements under Rules

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<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at Exhibit 1, p. 16. Dominion states that five of the grid transformation projects proposed for Phase III do not have a physical component that would cause any environmental consequence. *Id.* at 17. Further, according to the Company, the proposed NWA program would not have a physical component unless a specific energy storage resource is selected under the proposed process. The Company notes that the remaining eight Phase III grid transformation projects would require at least some work in environmental justice communities. *Id.* The Company represents that it has engaged a third-party consultant to evaluate these eight grid transformation projects that would require at least some work in environmental justice communities and will use the results of this evaluation to inform the Company's environmental justice strategy as it relates to the GT Plan. *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Petition at 7.

<sup>17</sup> 20 VAC 5-204-5 *et seq.*

20 VAC 5-204-40 ("Rule 40") and 20 VAC 5-204-90 ("Rule 90") with respect to paper copies of certain Filing Schedule 46 materials.<sup>18</sup>

First, Schedule 46 requires the Company, in part, to provide key documentation supporting the projected and actual costs of the proposed projects (such as contracts, results from requests for proposals, and materials used by senior management for major cost decisions).<sup>19</sup> According to the Company, the documents responsive to these requirements are voluminous and often not easily reviewed in hard copy (*i.e.*, paper) format.<sup>20</sup> The Company therefore seeks waiver of the requirement to file multiple hard copies of this information and instead proposes to file one hard copy of this supporting documentation and three compact discs.<sup>21</sup> Dominion states it will also make the documents available to case participants in electronic format via its electronic discovery site.<sup>22</sup>

Next, Dominion requests that the Commission waive, in part, the requirements under Rule 40 and Rule 90 with respect to paper copies of supporting calculations for the estimated annual revenue requirement required as part of Filing Schedule 46.<sup>23</sup> Schedule 46 directs the Company to provide the estimated annual revenue requirement over the duration of the proposed project by year and by project including all supporting calculations and assumptions.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Petition at 1, 9-11.

<sup>19</sup> See 20 VAC 5-204-90 at Sch. 46(d)(1)(ii).

<sup>20</sup> Petition at 10.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> See 20 VAC 5-204-90 at Sch. 46(d)(2)(ii).

Dominion states that it has included the estimated long-term revenue requirement by project and by year, but that the calculations supporting the estimated annual revenue requirement are completed in Microsoft Excel, involve multiple worksheets and formulas to complete the calculations, and are not easily converted to a printable version or reviewed in hard copy format.<sup>25</sup> Accordingly, the Company seeks waiver of the requirement to file these workpapers in hard copy and instead proposes to provide three compact discs.<sup>26</sup> Dominion states it will also make the documents available to case participants in electronic format via its electronic discovery site.<sup>27</sup>

Finally, in conjunction with the filing of its Petition, the Company filed the Motion of Virginia Electric and Power Company for Entry of a Protective Order and Additional Protective Treatment ("Motion for Protective Ruling") and a proposed protective ruling that establishes procedures governing the use of confidential and extraordinarily sensitive information in this proceeding.

<sup>25</sup> Petition at 10-11.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.* The Company notes that a similar waiver request was granted in a prior GT Plan proceeding. See *Petition of Virginia Electric and Power Company, For approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects pursuant to § 56-58.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia*, Case No. PUR-2021-00127, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 210720063, Order for Notice and Hearing (July 14, 2021).

findings and recommendations. We also find that a Hearing Examiner should be assigned to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission, including ruling on the Company's Motion for Protective Ruling and filing a final report containing the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations.

Further, for purposes of making the Petition complete and commencing this proceeding, we grant Dominion's requests for limited waivers of the requirements under Rule 40 and Rule 90 of the Rate Case Rules with respect to the filing of certain Schedule 46 materials.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission will, among other things, direct the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings unless they contain confidential information, and require electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUR-2023-00051.
- (2) All pleadings in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice").<sup>28</sup> Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.
- (3) Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission directs that service on parties and the Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by

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<sup>28</sup> 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.*

electronic means. Concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information, parties and the Staff are instructed to work together to agree upon the manner in which documents containing such information shall be served upon one another, to the extent practicable, in an electronically protected manner, even if such information is unable to be filed in the Office of the Clerk, so that no party or the Staff is impeded from preparing its case.

(4) As provided by Code § 12.1-31 and 5 VAC 5-20-120, *Procedure before hearing examiners*, of the Rules of Practice, a Hearing Examiner is appointed to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission, including ruling on the Company's Motion for Protective Order and filing a final report. A copy of each filing made with the Commission's Clerk's office in this matter shall also be sent electronically to the Office of the Hearing Examiners.<sup>29</sup>

(5) The Commission hereby schedules a telephonic hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petition, as follows:

- (a) A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on July 17, 2023, with no witness present in the Commission's courtroom.<sup>30</sup>
- (b) To promote fairness for all public witnesses, each witness will be allotted five minutes to provide testimony.
- (c) On or before July 12, 2023, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141.

<sup>29</sup> Such electronic copies shall be sent to [OHEParalegals@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:OHEParalegals@scc.virginia.gov).

<sup>30</sup> The Hearing Examiner will convene counsel of record in this proceeding to attend the public witness hearing virtually.

- (d) Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 17, 2023, the Hearing Examiner assigned will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above. This hearing will not be convened, and the parties will be notified of such, if no person signs up to testify as a public witness.
- (e) This public witness hearing will be webcast at:  
[scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

(6) A public evidentiary hearing on the Petition shall be convened at 10 a.m. on July 18, 2023, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Company, respondents, and the Staff on the Petition.

(7) An electronic copy of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Vishwa B. Link, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [vlink@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:vlink@mcguirewoods.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

(8) On or before May 17, 2023, the Company shall cause the following notice to be published as display advertising (not classified) on one (1) occasion in newspapers of general circulation throughout the Company's service territory within Virginia:



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE PETITION  
OF VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY FOR  
APPROVAL OF A PLAN FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION  
GRID TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS PURSUANT TO  
§ 56-585.1 A 6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA  
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00051

On March 31, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed a petition with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects ("Petition") pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia. Specifically, Dominion seeks approval of Phase III of its plan to transform its electric distribution grid ("GT Plan"), which consists of proposed projects in 2024, 2025, and 2026, as well as work performed in prior years for certain Phase III projects.

Dominion states that Phase III of the GT Plan includes the continuation of the following previously approved projects: (i) completion of the Company's deployment of two foundational GT Plan investments – advanced metering infrastructure and the customer information platform; (ii) continuation of the following three grid infrastructure projects – mainfeeder hardening, targeted corridor improvement, and voltage island mitigation; (iii) continuation of the following three grid technologies projects – a distributed energy resource management system, voltage optimization enablement, and substation technology deployment; (iv) continued investments in telecommunications and physical security; and (v) continued investments in cyber security and customer education to the extent needed to support other proposed projects.

Dominion also requests approval of two new projects. First, the Company proposes to deploy a new outage management system ("OMS") to replace an operating system developed over 30 years ago. According to the Company, the new OMS would leverage field condition information coming from intelligent grid devices, automated restoration schemes, smart meters, and system models to provide more accurate and timely outage event analysis, more effectively manage outage restoration activities, and better communicate outage restoration information to customers and emergency responders at the state and local levels.

Second, Dominion seeks approval of a process to evaluate energy storage systems as non-wires alternatives ("NWA"). More specifically, the Company is seeking approval of a program

structure and process so that NWA solutions identified would be deemed reasonable and prudent without additional regulatory approval. Dominion asserts that approval of this process would enable it to gain experience with this integrated distribution planning concept in a manner that would provide useful information as the Company moves forward with NWAs and that may result in the integration of energy storage systems that can dynamically respond to changing grid conditions. The Company also requests approval of costs for software needed to support the process.

The Company represents that, in preparing the GT Plan, it evaluated each proposed project to determine whether there were any environmental justice concerns.

The total proposed cost associated with Phase III of the GT Plan is \$1.0987 billion in capital investment and \$70.6 million in operations and maintenance expenses.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on the Company's Petition. On July 17, 2023, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will hold a telephonic hearing, with no witness present in the Commission's courtroom, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 12, 2023, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov); or by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

On July 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the

Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Vishwa B. Link, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [vlink@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:vlink@mcguirewoods.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Petition and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/Case-Information).

On or before July 12, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

On or before May 31, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any

person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before June 12, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company's Petition, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

#### VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

(9) The Company shall serve each official listed in 20 VAC 5-204-10 J 1 as provided by 20 VAC 5-204-10 J 2.

(10) On or before May 31, 2023, the Company shall file proof of the notice and service required by Ordering Paragraphs (8) and (9), including the name, title, address, and electronic mail address (if applicable) of each official served, with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling).

(11) On or before July 12, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](https://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

(12) On or before May 31, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed in Ordering Paragraph (11). Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

(13) Within five (5) business days of receipt of a notice of participation as a respondent, the Company shall serve upon the respondent a copy of the public version of the Petition and supporting materials, unless these materials already have been provided to the respondent.

(14) On or before June 12, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed in Ordering Paragraph (11). Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. A copy of all testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

(15) The Staff shall investigate the Petition. On or before June 12, 2023, the Staff shall file with the Clerk of the Commission its testimony and exhibits, and each Staff witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. The Staff shall serve a copy thereof on counsel to the Company and all respondents.

(16) On or before June 26, 2023, Dominion shall file with the Clerk of the Commission any rebuttal testimony and exhibits that it expects to offer, and each rebuttal witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. The Company shall serve a copy of its rebuttal testimony and exhibits on the Staff and all respondents.

(17) Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as also modified in Ordering Paragraph (2), all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

(18) The Commission's Rule of Practice 5 VAC 5-20-260, *Interrogatories to parties or requests for production of documents and things*, shall be modified for this proceeding as follows: responses and objections to written interrogatories and requests for production of documents shall be served within five (5) business days after receipt of the same.<sup>31</sup> In addition to the service requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-260 of the Rules of Practice, on the day that copies are filed with the Clerk of the Commission, a copy of the interrogatory or request for production shall be served electronically on the party to whom the interrogatory or request for production is directed or the assigned Staff attorney, if the interrogatory or request for production is directed to the Staff.<sup>32</sup> Except as modified herein, discovery shall be in accordance with Part IV of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 5 VAC 5-20-240 *et seq.*

(19) For purposes of making the Petition complete and commencing this proceeding, we grant Dominion's requests for limited waivers of the requirements under Rule 40 and Rule 90 of the Rate Case Rules with respect to the filing of certain Schedule 46 materials, as discussed herein.

(20) This matter is continued.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to all persons on the official Service List in this matter. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the Commission.

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<sup>31</sup> The Company requests that the Commission allow all parties to the proceeding to have at least five to seven business days from receipt to respond to interrogatories or requests for production of documents. Petition at 13. As this Order for Notice and Hearing imposes a five business day deadline for parties to respond to interrogatories or requests for production of documents, the Company's request is moot.

<sup>32</sup> The assigned Staff attorney is identified on the Commission's website, [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information), by clicking "Docket Search," then clicking "Search by Case Information," and entering the case number, PUR-2023-00051, in the appropriate box.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
AT RICHMOND, APRIL 21, 2023

2023042107

PETITION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

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<sup>3</sup> *See* Direct Testimony of Company witness Robert S. Wright, Jr. at 13. The Company expects to complete its broad deployment of AMI in 2024. As to the CIP, while the Company expects to complete the core project of replacing aging systems in 2023 as part of Phase II, it proposes to complete the final component of the CIP – a redesign of the customer bill – in Phase III. *Id.*



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The Company represents that, in preparing the GT Plan, it evaluated each proposed project to determine whether there were any environmental justice concerns.<sup>15</sup>

The total proposed cost associated with Phase III of the GT Plan is \$1.0987 billion in capital investment and \$70.6 million in operations and maintenance expenses.<sup>16</sup>

Pursuant to Rule 20 VAC 5-204-10 E of the Commission's Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Electric Utilities ("Rate Case Rules"),<sup>17</sup> Dominion also requests limited waivers of the requirements under Rules

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<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at Exhibit 1, p. 16. Dominion states that five of the grid transformation projects proposed for Phase III do not have a physical component that would cause any environmental consequence. *Id.* at 17. Further, according to the Company, the proposed NWA program would not have a physical component unless a specific energy storage resource is selected under the proposed process. The Company notes that the remaining eight Phase III grid transformation projects would require at least some work in environmental justice communities. *Id.* The Company represents that it has engaged a third-party consultant to evaluate these eight grid transformation projects that would require at least some work in environmental justice communities and will use the results of this evaluation to inform the Company's environmental justice strategy as it relates to the GT Plan. *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Petition at 7.

<sup>17</sup> 20 VAC 5-204-5 *et seq.*

20 VAC 5-204-40 ("Rule 40") and 20 VAC 5-204-90 ("Rule 90") with respect to paper copies of certain Filing Schedule 46 materials.<sup>18</sup>

First, Schedule 46 requires the Company, in part, to provide key documentation supporting the projected and actual costs of the proposed projects (such as contracts, results from requests for proposals, and materials used by senior management for major cost decisions).<sup>19</sup> According to the Company, the documents responsive to these requirements are voluminous and often not easily reviewed in hard copy (*i.e.*, paper) format.<sup>20</sup> The Company therefore seeks waiver of the requirement to file multiple hard copies of this information and instead proposes to file one hard copy of this supporting documentation and three compact discs.<sup>21</sup> Dominion states it will also make the documents available to case participants in electronic format via its electronic discovery site.<sup>22</sup>

Next, Dominion requests that the Commission waive, in part, the requirements under Rule 40 and Rule 90 with respect to paper copies of supporting calculations for the estimated annual revenue requirement required as part of Filing Schedule 46.<sup>23</sup> Schedule 46 directs the Company to provide the estimated annual revenue requirement over the duration of the proposed project by year and by project including all supporting calculations and assumptions.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Petition at 1, 9-11.

<sup>19</sup> See 20 VAC 5-204-90 at Sch. 46(d)(1)(ii).

<sup>20</sup> Petition at 10.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> See 20 VAC 5-204-90 at Sch. 46(d)(2)(ii).

Dominion states that it has included the estimated long-term revenue requirement by project and by year, but that the calculations supporting the estimated annual revenue requirement are completed in Microsoft Excel, involve multiple worksheets and formulas to complete the calculations, and are not easily converted to a printable version or reviewed in hard copy format.<sup>25</sup> Accordingly, the Company seeks waiver of the requirement to file these workpapers in hard copy and instead proposes to provide three compact discs.<sup>26</sup> Dominion states it will also make the documents available to case participants in electronic format via its electronic discovery site.<sup>27</sup>

Finally, in conjunction with the filing of its Petition, the Company filed the Motion of Virginia Electric and Power Company for Entry of a Protective Order and Additional Protective Treatment ("Motion for Protective Ruling") and a proposed protective ruling that establishes procedures governing the use of confidential and extraordinarily sensitive information in this proceeding.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of this matter, is of the opinion and finds that this matter should be docketed; the Company should provide public notice of its Petition; hearings should be scheduled for the purpose of receiving testimony from public witnesses and evidence on the Petition; interested persons should have an opportunity to file comments on the Petition or to participate as respondents in this proceeding; and the Commission's Staff ("Staff") should be directed to investigate the Petition and file testimony and exhibits containing its

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<sup>25</sup> Petition at 10-11.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.* at 11.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.* The Company notes that a similar waiver request was granted in a prior GT Plan proceeding. *See Petition of Virginia Electric and Power Company, For approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia*, Case No. PUR-2021-00127, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 210720063, Order for Notice and Hearing (July 14, 2021).

findings and recommendations. We also find that a Hearing Examiner should be assigned to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission, including ruling on the Company's Motion for Protective Ruling and filing a final report containing the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations.

Further, for purposes of making the Petition complete and commencing this proceeding, we grant Dominion's requests for limited waivers of the requirements under Rule 40 and Rule 90 of the Rate Case Rules with respect to the filing of certain Schedule 46 materials.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission will, among other things, direct the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings unless they contain confidential information, and require electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUR-2023-00051.
- (2) All pleadings in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice").<sup>28</sup> Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

(3) Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission directs that service on parties and the Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by

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<sup>28</sup> 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.*

electronic means. Concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information, parties and the Staff are instructed to work together to agree upon the manner in which documents containing such information shall be served upon one another, to the extent practicable, in an electronically protected manner, even if such information is unable to be filed in the Office of the Clerk, so that no party or the Staff is impeded from preparing its case.

(4) As provided by Code § 12.1-31 and 5 VAC 5-20-120, *Procedure before hearing examiners*, of the Rules of Practice, a Hearing Examiner is appointed to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission, including ruling on the Company's Motion for Protective Order and filing a final report. A copy of each filing made with the Commission's Clerk's office in this matter shall also be sent electronically to the Office of the Hearing Examiners.<sup>29</sup>

(5) The Commission hereby schedules a telephonic hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petition, as follows:

- (a) A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on July 17, 2023, with no witness present in the Commission's courtroom.<sup>30</sup>
- (b) To promote fairness for all public witnesses, each witness will be allotted five minutes to provide testimony.
- (c) On or before July 12, 2023, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141.

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<sup>29</sup> Such electronic copies shall be sent to [OHEParalegals@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:OHEParalegals@scc.virginia.gov).

<sup>30</sup> The Hearing Examiner will convene counsel of record in this proceeding to attend the public witness hearing virtually.

(d) Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 17, 2023, the Hearing Examiner assigned will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above. This hearing will not be convened, and the parties will be notified of such, if no person signs up to testify as a public witness.

(e) This public witness hearing will be webcast at:  
[scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

(6) A public evidentiary hearing on the Petition shall be convened at 10 a.m. on July 18, 2023, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Company, respondents, and the Staff on the Petition.

(7) An electronic copy of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Vishwa B. Link, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [vlink@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:vlink@mcguirewoods.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

(8) On or before May 17, 2023, the Company shall cause the following notice to be published as display advertising (not classified) on one (1) occasion in newspapers of general circulation throughout the Company's service territory within Virginia:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE PETITION  
OF VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY FOR  
APPROVAL OF A PLAN FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION  
GRID TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS PURSUANT TO  
§ 56-585.1 A 6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA  
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00051

On March 31, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed a petition with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects ("Petition") pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia. Specifically, Dominion seeks approval of Phase III of its plan to transform its electric distribution grid ("GT Plan"), which consists of proposed projects in 2024, 2025, and 2026, as well as work performed in prior years for certain Phase III projects.

Dominion states that Phase III of the GT Plan includes the continuation of the following previously approved projects: (i) completion of the Company's deployment of two foundational GT Plan investments – advanced metering infrastructure and the customer information platform; (ii) continuation of the following three grid infrastructure projects – mainfeeder hardening, targeted corridor improvement, and voltage island mitigation; (iii) continuation of the following three grid technologies projects – a distributed energy resource management system, voltage optimization enablement, and substation technology deployment; (iv) continued investments in telecommunications and physical security; and (v) continued investments in cyber security and customer education to the extent needed to support other proposed projects.

Dominion also requests approval of two new projects. First, the Company proposes to deploy a new outage management system ("OMS") to replace an operating system developed over 30 years ago. According to the Company, the new OMS would leverage field condition information coming from intelligent grid devices, automated restoration schemes, smart meters, and system models to provide more accurate and timely outage event analysis, more effectively manage outage restoration activities, and better communicate outage restoration information to customers and emergency responders at the state and local levels.

Second, Dominion seeks approval of a process to evaluate energy storage systems as non-wires alternatives ("NWA"). More specifically, the Company is seeking approval of a program



structure and process so that NWA solutions identified would be deemed reasonable and prudent without additional regulatory approval. Dominion asserts that approval of this process would enable it to gain experience with this integrated distribution planning concept in a manner that would provide useful information as the Company moves forward with NWAs and that may result in the integration of energy storage systems that can dynamically respond to changing grid conditions. The Company also requests approval of costs for software needed to support the process.

The Company represents that, in preparing the GT Plan, it evaluated each proposed project to determine whether there were any environmental justice concerns.

The total proposed cost associated with Phase III of the GT Plan is \$1.0987 billion in capital investment and \$70.6 million in operations and maintenance expenses.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on the Company's Petition. On July 17, 2023, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will hold a telephonic hearing, with no witness present in the Commission's courtroom, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 12, 2023, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov); or by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

On July 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the

Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Vishwa B. Link, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [vlink@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:vlink@mcguirewoods.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Petition and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/Case-Information).

On or before July 12, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

On or before May 31, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any

person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before June 12, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company's Petition, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

#### VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

(9) The Company shall serve each official listed in 20 VAC 5-204-10 J 1 as provided by 20 VAC 5-204-10 J 2.

(10) On or before May 31, 2023, the Company shall file proof of the notice and service required by Ordering Paragraphs (8) and (9), including the name, title, address, and electronic mail address (if applicable) of each official served, with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling).

(11) On or before July 12, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

(12) On or before May 31, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed in Ordering Paragraph (11). Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

(13) Within five (5) business days of receipt of a notice of participation as a respondent, the Company shall serve upon the respondent a copy of the public version of the Petition and supporting materials, unless these materials already have been provided to the respondent.

(14) On or before June 12, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed in Ordering Paragraph (11). Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. A copy of all testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00051.

(15) The Staff shall investigate the Petition. On or before June 12, 2023, the Staff shall file with the Clerk of the Commission its testimony and exhibits, and each Staff witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. The Staff shall serve a copy thereof on counsel to the Company and all respondents.

(16) On or before June 26, 2023, Dominion shall file with the Clerk of the Commission any rebuttal testimony and exhibits that it expects to offer, and each rebuttal witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. The Company shall serve a copy of its rebuttal testimony and exhibits on the Staff and all respondents.

(17) Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as also modified in Ordering Paragraph (2), all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

(18) The Commission's Rule of Practice 5 VAC 5-20-260, *Interrogatories to parties or requests for production of documents and things*, shall be modified for this proceeding as follows: responses and objections to written interrogatories and requests for production of documents shall be served within five (5) business days after receipt of the same.<sup>31</sup> In addition to the service requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-260 of the Rules of Practice, on the day that copies are filed with the Clerk of the Commission, a copy of the interrogatory or request for production shall be served electronically on the party to whom the interrogatory or request for production is directed or the assigned Staff attorney, if the interrogatory or request for production is directed to the Staff.<sup>32</sup> Except as modified herein, discovery shall be in accordance with Part IV of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 5 VAC 5-20-240 *et seq.*

(19) For purposes of making the Petition complete and commencing this proceeding, we grant Dominion's requests for limited waivers of the requirements under Rule 40 and Rule 90 of the Rate Case Rules with respect to the filing of certain Schedule 46 materials, as discussed herein.

(20) This matter is continued.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to all persons on the official Service List in this matter. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the Commission.

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<sup>31</sup> The Company requests that the Commission allow all parties to the proceeding to have at least five to seven business days from receipt to respond to interrogatories or requests for production of documents. Petition at 13. As this Order for Notice and Hearing imposes a five business day deadline for parties to respond to interrogatories or requests for production of documents, the Company's request is moot.

<sup>32</sup> The assigned Staff attorney is identified on the Commission's website, [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information), by clicking "Docket Search," then clicking "Search by Case Information," and entering the case number, PUR-2023-00051, in the appropriate box.